



## PRESS RELEASE

*Monsoon (dance residency)*  
**Asia-Europe Creative Partnership Initiatives: Performing Arts**  
**18-23 December 2010**  
**Leuven, Belgium**

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### ***Asian and European choreographers examine cultural influences in dance***

#### ***Choreographers join academics in a multi-disciplinary residency created by German choreographer Arco Renz***

A group of 12 Asian and European dancers, choreographers, academics and a policy advisor will meet from 18 to 23 December in Leuven, Belgium, to explore the nature of dance and its practise within cultural contexts. This residency programme is created by well-known German choreographer Arco Renz and supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). The residency, also known as **Monsoon**, takes place at the city's STUK Arts Centre.

Dancers and choreographers will be paired up for a **virtual blind date** before the start of the residency. This is an anonymous Asia-Europe dialogue on dance using blogs on ASEF's arts and culture portal [culture360.org](http://culture360.org). At the end of their residency the artists will stage a public performance at STUK. This will be held on 23 December. This event will also involve the participation of other academics and students from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Catholic University of Leuven).

*Monsoon* is organised by Kobalt Works (Belgium), an artistic company founded by Renz which focuses on cross-over art forms. Renz is currently an artist-in-residence at STUK and has worked extensively with renowned American avant-garde stage director Robert Wilson. Some of his works have been performed at the Singapore Arts Festival and France's *Festival d'Art Lyrique d'Aix en Provence*.

Under its Asia-Europe Cultural Partnership Initiatives (AECPI), ASEF supports projects by Asian and European organisations in film, new media and performing arts. These promote cultural understanding between the two regions through collaborations and exchanges among artists.

Ms Katelijn Verstraete, Assistant Director of ASEF Cultural Exchange Department, will also share ASEF's rich experience in facilitating networking and collaborations between Asia and Europe at International University College Leuven on 21 December.

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## **About the Organisers:**



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM\*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

\* ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)



**STUK Kunstencentrum vzw** is an art center with multidisciplinary characteristics, an emphasis on performing arts and a focus on cross-over arts forms. It uncovers new developments in the national and/or international art scene by ways of supporting the production and presentation of works by young and emerging artists. STUK Kunstencentrum has a seasonal program of daily movie screenings, concerts and dance. <http://www.stuk.be/>

### **Kobalt Works asbl**

Kobalt Works (Brussels) is the production organization of German choreographer and dancer Arco Renz and a number of associated independent artists: composer Marc Appart, dancer Wen-Chi Su and lighting designer Jan Maertens. Since the establishment of Kobalt Works in 2000, Arco Renz has developed a successful artistic track, creating and touring several performances as well as developing transcultural and multidisciplinary research and exchange programmes. [www.kobaltworks.be](http://www.kobaltworks.be)